

Urbanisation, migration..:

1. Sociologists define urbanisation as the movement of people from villages to town/city where economic activities are centred around non-agricultural occupations such as trade, manufacturing industry and management.

2. In the nineteenth century, though the process of urbanisation grew in a modest way, the countryside suffered from the gradual process of the destruction of the cottage and small industries in the rural areas. In this situation, the new economic opportunity structure pulled a significant section of population to the urban areas.

3. The late nineteenth century, however, witnessed a large-scale migration of the rural labour force especially from Bihar and eastern United Provinces towards the jute mills of Calcutta and other industrial destinations. The educated people joined the bureaucracy, and also took up jobs as teachers, journalists, lawyers and so on. It was only the upper caste and class people who were able to make use of these opportunities.

4. Any place which satisfies the following criteria of: a minimum of 5,000 persons, at least 75 percent of the working occupations are non-agricultural, a density of not less than 1,000 persons per square mile is 'Urban'. In India, urban places with less than 1,00,000 population are referred to as "towns", while urban places with 1,00,000 or more population are referred to as "cities". Urban centres with more than one million population are categorised as metropolitan cities.

Though India is known as a country of villages the size of her urban population is second largest in the world with 307 million (30.7 crores) of population living in the urban areas. According to 2001 census 30.5% of Indian population live in the urban areas.

5. In the Indian context, the idea of over-urbanisation has been advanced on the grounds that (a) there is an imbalance between the levels of industrialisation and urbanisation in India, (b) the process of urbanisation takes away a lion's share of resources and, thus, impinges upon the rate of economic growth of society, (c) the availability of civic amenities and facilities is so poor that these have now reached a point of break-down and become almost incapable of bearing further growing urban pressures.

Mumbai and Kolkata are two such examples of cities (among others) which have urban population growth beyond their capacities to manage. This feature refers to over-urbanisation. When towns get over-crowded by population, it may result in sub-urbanisation. Delhi is a typical example (among others) where suburbanisation trend is taking place around it.

6. Urbanisation accompanies economic development because economic development entails a massive shift of labour and other inputs from predominantly rural sectors to those predominantly urban.

7. When we examine the various cities in India, we find that some cities have come up during twentieth century in places where there were nothing but forests earlier. One of the first steel cities in India, like Jamshedpur in Bihar, has provided employment to a large number of people including the Santals who are the local tribal inhabitants of this area. These tribals who were relatively isolated earlier have come into contact with a wide section of Indian population, coming from different regions, speaking different languages, and so on.

8. Here it is significant to note that industrialisation should not be taken as prerequisite for urbanisation, as the process of migration from village starts when a relative saturation point is reached in the field of agriculture. This is a result of an imbalanced land/man ratio in the countryside.

9. Social stratification has taken a new form in the urban society. It is assumed that with urbanisation caste transforms itself into class in the urban areas. But caste systems do exist in the cities though with significant organisational differences.

Also, religious activities are not on decline in the metropolitan city but are being modernised.

10. Problems concerning the current process of urbanisation:

A. Slums.

The National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi, has recorded that the emergence of slums is essentially the product of three forces: a) demographic dynamism of a city attracting more people from the rural areas offering greater potential for employment; b) its incapacity to meet the rising demand for housing; and c) the existing urban land policies, which prohibit the access of the poor to the urban land market

B. Lack of housing.

C. Absence of planned and adequate arrangements for traffic and transport.

D. The extent of facilities medical, sanitation, drinking water, power-supply have remained insufficient.

E. Crime.

With the rise of urbanisation, the rate of crime gets further accentuated as the opportunities of success through socially legitimate means remain scarce as against the number of aspirants. Moreover, urban anonymity in a way encourages resorting to unlawful activities, as the traditional agencies of social control and law and order become noticeably weak.

11. Socially, isolated persons are rarely found in village communities. In the city, people are usually unable to make intimate and emotionally strong relationships.

12. The social legislation governing rent and sale of land and houses include the following two important enactments: 1) Rent Control Act (RCA), 1948, and 2) Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation Act (ULCRA) 1976.

The Rent Control Act also protects the tenants from the atrocities of the house-owner, especially in the sense that the owner of a house can neither force the tenant to vacate house, nor can he raise the rent of the house at his own will. Further, the Rent Control Act also imposes the responsibility of repairs of the house on the owner rather than on the tenant living in it.

Under the provisions ULCRA, the excess land, i.e., land excluding the prescribed size of the available plot, can be procured by the local authorities or the state government for wider public interests. Usually, the excess land under this Act is procured for the construction of houses for the urban poor and the low income groups. Moreover, this Act imposes restrictions on the sale of excess land so as to curb speculation in urban land.

1. Migration is a response of human organisms to economic, social and demographic forces in the environment. It also plays an important role in the distribution of the population of any country, and determines the growth of labour force in any area. It determines the size and rate of population growth as well as its structure and characteristics. It is thus an important symptom of social change in society.

2. In India, the migrants are classified into four migration streams, namely, rural to rural, rural to urban, urban to urban and urban to rural.

An important point is that the proportion of the females is much higher in rural to rural migration, while in the other three streams the proportion of the males is comparatively much higher.

People have a tendency to move when they are between their teens and their mid-thirties (15-35 years) than at other ages.

3. The pressure of population resulting in a high man-land ratio has been widely recognised as one of the important causes of poverty and rural outmigration.

An ILO study reveals that the main push factor causing the worker to leave agriculture is the lower levels of income, as income in agriculture is generally lower than the other sectors of the economy.

pull factors operate not only in the rural-urban migration, but also in other types of internal as well as international migration.

Another important factor which plays crucial role in migration is 'push back factor'. In India, the urban labour force is sizeable, and the urban unemployment rates are high, and there also exist pools of underemployed persons. All these factors act in combination as deterrents to the fresh flow of migration from the rural to urban areas. This is a 'push back factor'.

4. As long as migration draws upon the surplus labour, it would help the emigrating region. It will have adverse effects only if human resources are drained away at the cost of the development of the region.

Migration of the unmarried males of young working age results in imbalances in sex ratio.

Demography:

1. Three factors determine the change in the size of the population of any country: how many persons are born, how many persons die, and how many persons are added to the population after considering the number of persons leaving the country and the number of persons coming into the country.
2. At the outset, it is necessary to differentiate between fecundity and fertility. Fecundity refers to the physiological capacity to reproduce. Fertility, on the other hand, refers to the actual reproductive performance of an individual or a group.

3. The crude birth rate is calculated by dividing the number of live births occurring during a calendar year in a specified area by the midyear population of that year. It is generally expressed per thousand of population. It directly points to the contribution of fertility to the growth rate of the population. It suffers from certain limitations mainly because it has in the denominator the total population which includes males as well as very young and very old women who are biologically not capable of having babies.
4. Determinants of High Fertility
 All the religions, except Buddhism, contain injunctions to their followers to breed and multiply. In India, traditionally women start childbearing at an early age, and continue to do so till they cross the age at which they are no longer biologically capable of bearing children. A woman, who does not bear children, is looked down upon in society. The preference for sons is so high in the Indian society that a couple may continue to have several daughters and still not stop childbearing in the hope of having at least one son. The low status of women is also a contributing factor to high fertility. Women, unquestioningly, accept excessive childbearing without any alternative avenues for self-expression. In the absence of widespread adoption of methods of conception control, the fertility of Indian women continues to remain high.
5. Implications of High Fertility
 Women are tied down to child-bearing and child-rearing for the best years of their productive lives. The burden of providing for a large family sits heavily on the bread-winner of the family. The children, often unwanted, unloved and neglected, are left to their own devices to make life bearable. The girl child is the worst sufferer. She is often not sent to school at all, or is withdrawn from school at an early age to help her mother. Early marriage pushes her into child-bearing, and the vicious cycle continues.
6. The Crude death rate is the ratio of the total registered deaths occurring in a specified calendar year to the total mid-year population of that year, multiplied by 1000.
7. Infants are defined in demography as all those children in the first year of life who have not yet reached age one, that is, those who have not celebrated their first birthday. Infants are studied separately, as mortality during the first year of life is invariably high.
8. The infant mortality rate is generally computed as a ratio of infant deaths (that is, deaths of children under one year of age) registered in a calendar year to the total number of live births (children born alive) registered in the same year. The factors contributing to the post-neonatal and child mortality are generally not biological, but arise out of the environment and the behavioral response to it.
9. The decline in mortality in India has been mainly due to public health and disease control measures, which were mostly imported from the developed countries. These include DDT spraying, the use of antibiotics like penicillin and vaccines against many communicable diseases like tuberculosis, polio, typhoid, cholera and several childhood diseases. Dreaded "killer diseases" like plague, smallpox and polio have been completely eradicated.
10. It has been observed that wherever infant and child mortality is high, fertility is also high and vice-versa.
11. India has a large "young" population because the birth rates are high and the number of children born is large. The sustained high level of birth rates has resulted in a large proportion of children and a small proportion of old population. On the other hand, in economically developed countries, the birth rates are low and less children are born. The low birth rates result in a higher proportion of old people. Compared to the role of fertility, the role of mortality in determining the age structure of a population is limited, specially when mortality is high. Rapid reductions in mortality and lengthening of the lifespan result in a "younger" population.
12. High mortality of the females appears to be the most plausible explanation for the sex ratio in India, which is adverse to the females. Though biologically stronger than the male, the female in India is in a socially and culturally disadvantaged position, and has been accorded an inferior status over the centuries. The death rates for the females in most age groups are higher than those for the males.
13. India has the distinction of being the first country in the world to have a fully government-supported family planning programme. The various components of the family planning programme are : (1) Information, Education and Communication Activities, (2) Contraceptives: Supplies and Services, (3) Training of Personnel, (4) Research, and (5) Administrative Infrastructure.
14. It can be observed that family planning is accepted generally after the most fertile period in a woman's life (up to 29 years) is over, and when the couple has exceeded the norm of two children advocated by the government. States like Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Union Territories like Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Delhi and Pondicherry have a higher percentage of effectively protected couples than the all-India average.
15. The long-term goal to be achieved for the country is to reach a replacement level of unity (net reproduction rate of one, when each woman will be replaced by only one daughter).
16. Stats for CBR, CDR, IMR, life expectancy, sex ratio from 2011 census.

Women:

1. Stats for Women's work participation from 2011 census.

2. In Western countries, women's groups, politicians and other concerned individuals have been arguing for payment for housework and childcare. In India the question of payment for household jobs has not really been an important issue or demand. A major part of the work done by women in the household is not recognised as work since these are not paid in the economic sense and not visible in the public eye as well.
3. In the informal sector, there is no legal redressal for problems; no maternity or other leave benefits and little security of service. Working long hours as domestic servants, stitching clothes for the garment export industry, working on the assembly line of small electronics manufacturing units or the beedi, tobacco, cashewnut factories, women live in fear of retrenchment, exploitation (often of a sexual nature) and inadequate wages. A little over 87 per cent of women are employed in the unorganised sector in rural and urban areas.
4. Where the ownership of land, means of production as well as decision-making are dominated by men, the division of labour within the family as well as in the employment market is weighted in favour of those in positions or authority. As agriculture labourers they comprise 60% of all agricultural workers.
Structural changes in the economy e.g. decline in traditional rural industries like pottery, blacksmithy, weaving and handicrafts due to competition from modern industries have increased the dependence of women on agricultural sector and have adversely affected the status of women workforce.
5. Lack of assets (land, house) in their own name in order to have access to credit and self-employment opportunities has been the important hurdle in the upward mobility of women workers.
6. We can sum up the main characteristics of female labour working in various sectors of economy as follows:
 - i) Low overall participation rate of women vis-a-vis men.
 - ii) Regional variations in female work participation rate.
 - iii) Large concentration of women workers in the agricultural sector and household industries in all states.
 - iv) Majority of women i.e. 87% are working in the 'informal sector' which is characterised by low wages, non-unionisation, bad working conditions and irregular work.
 - v) Women are mostly engaged in low productivity and lowpaid occupations. Wage discrimination is widely prevalent in such jobs. About 89% of women in rural areas and 69.48% of women in urban areas are unskilled workers.
7. Most families in India, irrespective of their caste and religion, are patrilineal. The exceptions are the matrilineal Nairs of Kerala and tribes like the Khasis of Meghalaya.
8. The incidence of a range of physical ailments, neurotic disorders and spirit possession are manifestations of how women react, at one level, to their situation.
9. In a society where men define social reality, a stubborn woman is perhaps one who is not sufficiently deferential to the man's point of view.
10. Equal Remuneration Act: This Act states that there should be no wage discrimination between male and female workers when they are engaged in the same type of activity. Women in agriculture, construction, household industry etc. continue to receive lower wages than men. However the Act has been effective in the organised sector, especially in plantations where nearly half the workers are women and also in mines and factories.
Minimum Wages Act: For workers in the unorganised sector, this law provides a mechanism for fixing up minimum rates of wages which should reflect the basic minimum needs of the workers.
Maternity Benefits Act: This Act provides that women workers are entitled to 24 weeks of leave with full pay during pregnancy. Usually the female worker is allowed to take leave for 4 weeks before the birth of the child and 8 weeks leave after the birth of the child. They are also allowed to take leave for 6 weeks for abortion.
11. A few organisations like Self-employed Women's Association (SEWA), Ahmedabad, Working Women's Forum (WWF), Madras, Annapurna Mahila Mandal (AMM), Bombay and several grassroots organisations have mobilised urban and rural poor women workers in order to strengthen their bargaining capacities and improve their access to credit and other resources.
12. One of the major problems with anti-poverty programmes was that poor women, handicapped by illiteracy, socio-cultural factors (as most of them are SC/ST) and inability of these agencies to imaginatively plan and implement these programmes, could not benefit from these schemes. Due to predominantly male ownership of land and other productive assets, women were not able to give bank guarantee and take advantage of the credit schemes.

Caste, SC, ST, reservation, change, background etc... :

1. Caste is by definition a closed social system whose membership is acquired by virtue of birth. The term 'scheduled caste' was coined by the Simon Commission (1927).
Gandhi= Harijans, Ambedkar= Depressed classes.
The term which is currently popular and is preferred by the scheduled caste is the term dalit. The word dalit is inclusive, in the sense that it includes also those communities groups of people, who are marginalised and subjugated it is used in a generic sense to the untouchable or the scheduled caste.

2. A. The widespread social and cultural process called Sanskritisation is a process where a low Hindu caste changes its customs, rites, rituals ideology and way of life in the direction of high and frequently twice-born castes. This has paved the way for mobility to occur within the caste system. The census operations introduced by the British made every caste self-conscious of its rights and status. This activated the process of sanskritisation.
- B. With the advent of the British, the opening up of frontiers by means of roads, and railways and economic opportunities cutting across caste barriers increased the process of caste mobility. The new opportunities in education, economy and polity were in theory caste free and open to all. The policy, the British government followed towards the backward classes, was partly humanitarian and partly political. The perpetuation of cleavage between the high castes and the low castes was in their interest. So, Sanskritisation and westernization changed the picture.
- C. During the last few decades, as a result of the forces of modernisation, the ideology of caste has become less pervasive in an individual's day to day life. Caste rituals have become increasingly a personal affair, rather than public due to changed circumstances of living, forces of industrialisation, and urbanisation.
- D. The breakdown of the traditional economic system and the emergence of lower caste groups in economic rivalry rather than cooperation undermined the Brahman dominance.
- E. The closed system was characteristic of feudal economy resulting in cooperation between ranked castes in ways ordained by religious ideas. An open system is one, which is governed by secular law under the influence of market economy.
- F. It is widely held that civil and penal codes introduced by the British over the sub-continent of India in 1860 took away the power exercised by caste panchayats.
- G. The introduction of democratic decentralization and universal suffrage protected the interests of the backward classes (which include the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes) in education, employment and political life, against the dominance of the traditionally powerful castes. Article 15 (4) speaks of social and educational backwardness. In Article 16 (4), mention is made of backward classes and their inadequate representation in services. Article 23 speaks of forced labour. Article 46 refers to weaker section of the people in which the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are included. The real problem, however, is not the removal of legal disabilities but social disabilities.

3. An important way in which we can see the continuity of caste is that when the new forces of socio-economic, political and educational changes came, it was the already powerful, wealthy upper castes, such as the Brahmans, Rajputs and the Vaishyas who benefited initially from these changes.

The same pattern is visible in the commercial sector too. The great business houses like Birlas, Dalmias, etc., belonged to the traditional commercial castes. In banking the castes like the Chettiers of South established themselves in the modern systems of banking and commerce which was an extension of their traditional occupation.

4. It is very clear now that caste as a dynamic reality of Indian society has accompanied changes and in the process has continued to survive the onslaught of time. The characteristic of adaptability to forces of change has been a feature of the caste in the past and it continues to remain its main characteristic even today.

5. An open system is one in which inequalities of caste, class and power are dispersed. In this case a person can be of lower caste but belong to upper class.

6. % of SC and ST in population, from 2011 census.

7. Reservation:

More precisely, the State shall reserve the public jobs for the members of the Scheduled Caste and Tribes. Two Articles, 330 and 332, lay down that there shall be reservation of seats in the Lok Sabha (Article 330) and State Legislative Assembly (Article 332) in proportion to the number of the Scheduled Castes in various states. And finally, according to Article 340, the President can appoint a commission to investigate the difficulties of the socially and educationally backward classes of the citizens and to make recommendations to remove such difficulties. The commission is also empowered to take stock of the progress made by these classes of citizens due to provisions made under various articles for their welfare, protection and development.

The reservation policy has three major components. These are: 1) reservation in government appointments, 2) reservation in admission to educational institutions and 3) reservation of seats in the House of People (Lok Sabha) and the Legislative Assemblies of the States.

15% and 7.5% posts are reserved for the Scheduled Caste and Tribe candidates in government jobs. Such reservations of posts are applicable in all the categories of jobs both in the Central and State Government services. In the recent years, such reservation has been extended to the services in the public undertaking units.

Out of 542 Lok Sabha seats 79 seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes. Similarly, out of 3997 seats 541 seats in the State Legislatures are reserved for Scheduled Castes. However, the caste class nexus works strongly and allows only a few castes to be politically or socially mobile. This has defeated the very purpose of the reservation and the intention of the constitutional measures for development of the Scheduled Castes.

8. The motive force for the backward and the Scheduled Castes to sanskritise was just to ventilate their deprived feelings of status and position which were denied to them for centuries. By imitating the higher castes they tried to find a position as that of the upper castes. But they have not always succeeded in their efforts, as there is no legitimate acceptance by the upper castes.

There is change from sanskritisation to consolidation of power and to acquire a positive identity. The consolidation of power is also seen in the increasing presence of dalit based parties, especially BSP in the Indian political arena. In turn, this has contributed to independent identity for Scheduled Castes and has made them less dependent on the upper castes.

9. The anti-untouchability movements may be classified into two categories: (1) reformatory movements and (2) alternative movements. The reformatory movements aim to reform the caste system in order to put an end to the problem of untouchability. The alternative movements aim to create 'an alternative cultural environment by conversion to' another religion.

10. The core of industrial India falls in middle India and the tribals of Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh form the bulk of industrial labour in this zone. The tribals of Chhota Nagpur also work in the tea garden of Assam and West Bengal and at the same time are engaged in forestry and other works of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Santhals are said to be good pick miners and coal cutters. Half of the labour force in the manganese industry of Madhya Pradesh are tribal.

11. For the purpose of study, the tribal movements have often been classified into 3 types on the basis of their orientation. These are : (1) Movements for political autonomy, the Jharkhand Movement is a good example of this (2) the agrarian and forest based movements, the naxalite movements others involving tribes of Bihar, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh are fighting for their customary rights of land and forest. It can be the results of oppression, discrimination, neglect and backwardness of the tribal people. (3) The third kind is socio-cultural movement.

12. Tribal Panchsheel by Nehru:

1) People should develop along the lines of their own genius and we should avoid imposing anything on them. We should try to encourage in every way their own traditional arts and cultures. 2) Tribal rights in land and forests should be respected. 3) We should try to train and build up a team of their own people to do the work of administration and development. Some technical personnel from outside will, no doubt, be needed, especially in the beginning. But we should avoid introducing too many outsiders into tribal territory. 4) We should not over-administer these areas or overwhelm them with a multiplicity of schemes. We should rather work through, and not in rivalry to their own social and cultural institutions. 5) We should judge results not by statistics or the amount of money spent but by the quality of human character that is evolved.

Social Movements:

1. Firstly, social movements involve collective action as against actions of a small group of individuals. Secondly, the collective attempt is designed to promote change or resist change in the society in which the attempt is made. So collective attempt may be to alter, inaugurate, supplant, restore or reinstate all or some aspects of the social order.

2. The two features of social movements, namely, sustained action and spontaneity operate simultaneously. These together distinguish a social movement from other movements.

3. The Naxalite movement, which started in 1968 in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal, could also be regarded as a social movement.

4. Types of Social Movements:

Migratory movements: When a large number of people migrate due to discontent and or due to the shared hope for a better future in some other land, we talk of migratory movements. For instance the mass exodus of men to Gulf countries specially from the state of Kerala is an example of a migratory social movement.

Reform movements: This type of a movement constitutes a collective attempt to change some parts of a society without completely transforming it. For example, the socio-religious reform movement of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in India aimed to remove social practices like sati, denial of education to women, ban on widow remarriage, ill treatment of widows, child marriage, caste disabilities and so on.

Revolutionary movements: Such a movement seeks to overthrow the existing system and replace it with a totally different one. The examples that immediately come to one's mind are the French Revolution and the Russian Revolution which resorted to overthrow the existing socio-political order prevailing in France and Russia respectively.

Resistance or Reactionary movements: These arise among people who are dissatisfied with certain aspects of change. The movement seeks to recapture or reinstate old values. For example the Islamic Fundamentalist movement and the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh(RSS) can be classified under the heading reactionary or resistance movements.

5. ORIGINS OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS:

Relative Deprivation - Social movements can arise out of relative expectations and not necessarily out of extreme or absolute conditions.

Structural Strain - When the prevailing value system and the normative structure does not meet the aspirations of the people, the society faces strain. For example where intercaste marriage is not permitted we may still find a few cases of such marriage, in violation of the norms. However only when individual actions are replaced by collective action does a social movement take place.

Revitalisation - Though social movements express dissatisfaction and dissent against the system, they may also offer a positive alternative. Indeed they may be started for revitalising the existing system which is undergoing structural strain. Youth movements which encourage young people to help and organise the oppressed or the literacy movements are other examples.

Land management, reforms etc....:

1. The land mass, can be broadly divided into four categories from the point of view of land use. These parts are: i) grazing lands, ii) wastelands, iii) croplands, and iv) forests.

The best grazing lands in India exist in areas which report an unusual rainfall of more than 1,200 mm and a dry season of just about four months. Grazing lands or vegetation formation of typical grasslands are found in the temperate climate zone of the Himalayas. The remaining grass lands of India are the steppes and savannas. Savannas with trees and all tall grasses shelter large wild animals (cattle). The steppes are extensive level plans without trees. They are found in areas of sandy and saline soils in western Rajasthan.

Much of India's grazing land is now under agriculture.

Most animals feed on crop residues and forage on fallow lands, unused panchayatlands, riverbanks, roadsides, wastelands and forests. Surviving on this kind of access to food, nine out of ten animals in the country still go hungry.

An area of uncultivated or devastated land is generally called wasteland. It is the land affected by salinity, alkalinity and wind and water erosion. An estimated area of one third of India's land is covered by wastelands.

2. India's land utilisation pattern is characterised by a continuous increase in the net sown area. This has been at the expense of grazing and forest lands.

3. The following have been identified as the main cause of ineffective legislation: a) exclusive dependence on legislation as an instrument of agrarian reforms b) the lack of political will c) sole responsibility for land reforms put on certain administrative agencies d) low degree of consciousness and organisation of the potential beneficiaries e) use of laws and implementation procedures in their own advantage by powerful landowners.

4. Latest land reforms Act details...